



March 24, 2026

The Honorable Eric Buckson  
411 Legislative Ave  
Dover, DE 19901

**RE: DHA Supportive Comments on the Respiratory Care Interstate Compact (SB 216)**

Dear Senator Buckson,

On behalf of Delaware's hospitals, health systems, and related healthcare organizations, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of Senate Bill 216. This legislation would enter Delaware into the Respiratory Care Interstate Compact, which has already been enacted in five states, with legislation introduced in six additional states.

Ensuring access to health care and strengthening the health care workforce are two of DHA's top priorities of 2026. DHA has long supported interstate licensure compacts - including those for physician assistants, APRNs, and most recently, social workers – as they improve access to care and help retain healthcare providers within the state.

Respiratory therapists are specialized healthcare professionals who diagnose, treat and manage patients of all ages with breathing or cardiopulmonary disorders. With only approximately 130,000 licensed respiratory therapists in the United States, expanding licensure portability across state lines is essential to ensuring timely access to this critical care in Delaware.

Thank you for the opportunity to share DHA's support for SB 216 and for your leadership on this issue. We look forward to working with you and your colleagues in the General Assembly to advance this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Christina Bryan'.

Christina Bryan  
Vice President of External Affairs

**Brian Frazee**  
President & CEO

**ChristianaCare**  
Janice E. Nevin, MD, MPH  
President & CEO  
DHA Board Chair

**Bayhealth**  
Terry Murphy  
President & CEO  
DHA Board Vice-Chair

**TidalHealth Nanticoke**  
Penny Short, MSM, BSN, RN  
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**Beebe Healthcare**  
David A. Tam, MD, MBA  
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**Saint Francis Hospital**  
Marlow Levy, RN, MBA,  
FACHE  
President

**Nemours Children's Health**  
Laura Kowal, MPT, JD  
Interim President  
Delaware Valley Executive Vice  
President, General Council

**Delaware Healthcare Association**  
Brian W. Frazee  
President & CEO